

• Abroad •

Panama City. Strenuous efforts are being made by the United States authorities to prevent the rest of the world from noticing that the U.S. flag is being lowered in the Canal Zone. Many flagpoles, including the one at the Governor's residence, from which the U.S. flag was always flown daily, have simply been removed. Elsewhere the Panama flag now flies alongside. The U.S. District Court is about to hear a suit brought by Gerald A. Hoyle, Jr., a U.S. citizen resident in the Zone for 15 years as chief architect for the Panama Canal Co., to enjoin flying of the Panama flag in the Zone until and unless an act of Congress or duly ratified treaty provides for such a derogation of U.S. sovereignty.

Canberra. Australia's military establishment has always been geared to the idea that her wartime chore is to furnish able fighting men to the combined armies of a Commonwealth or Western alliance. Two recent events—the Indonesian takeover of West New Guinea and the close approach to nuclear war in the Cuban crisis—have upset this assumption. Indonesia, now rather formidably armed by land, sea and air, looms to the north, and directly threatens Australia-governed East New Guinea. In spite of the Anzus alliance (U.S.-Australia-New Zealand), experience suggests that Australia could expect no support from Washington if dark-skinned imperialists moved against a white rule country. And in a nuclear war, the U.S. and other primary contestants would presumably not be able to help Australia if she were the target of a mass invasion from Asia. The demand is growing for an increase in Australia's military appropriations, which are now at a meager 2.8% of the gross national product as against 11% for the U.S.

New Delhi. Two weeks after the Himalayan fighting started, the government released a list of the countries that had declared support of India and condemnation of the Chinese attack. Among these were such Western allies in Asia as Thailand, the Philippine Republic and Iran. But of India's immediate neighbors, only Ceylon was to be found; Burma, Afghanistan, Pakistan and of course the Soviet Union were among those absent.

Mexico, D.F. Sven Oste was one of the very few non-Communist journalists in Cuba during the height of the crisis. In dispatches written to the *Guardian* and other European papers since he reached Mexico, he reports the "profound shock with which the Cubans learned of Khrushchev's order to dismantle the missile bases. . . . Posters bearing the legend, 'Cuba is not alone, the Soviet Union is behind us,' were torn from the walls. . . . Among ardent Fidelistas the bitterness and the feeling of being let down was obvious. The reaction was amazingly violent, and it is difficult for an observer with his view confined to Havana to estimate to what extent the outside world

became aware of the hostility toward the Soviet Union. . . . For several days even the words 'Soviet Union' were virtually barred from the press."

London. It was not without qualms that leaders of the three parties approved appointment of a three-man Tribunal of Inquiry headed by Lord Radcliffe to investigate the ramifications of the case of John Vassall, the homosexual Admiralty clerk turned Soviet spy. No one knows where the heaviest chips will fall. Moreover, the procedures authorized by the 1921 Act, under which the tribunal was named, would have sent the late Senator McCarthy running to the Civil Liberties Union. Lord Hailsham, government spokesman in the House of Lords, described the tribunal as "almost literally a Star Chamber." It has the power to summon witnesses and documents without specific charge or indictment, to compel evidence and punish for contempt. Its sessions will be secret. There is no equivalent of a Fifth Amendment plea. It will itself set the bounds of relevance, and may be expected to subject witnesses (again in Hailsham's words) "to searching examination on oath about their affairs and transactions originally, ordinarily and properly intended to be private."



"Right there near the missile site. Isn't he the Russian we always bump into at the Geneva Disarmament Conference?"

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Algiers. From the beginning of the civil war, certain FLN leaders declared that as heirs of the Islamic Arabs of the 8th and 9th centuries their aim was not merely the independence of Algeria but the "reconquest" of their "heritage," the southern half of France. Fantastic as this may seem, there is evidence that at least some Arabs take it seriously, and that from the more than half a million Arabs resident in France secret commando units have been formed in a number of localities. Special operatives are also said to be included among the thousands of Arabs now leaving weekly for France. Many Arabs believe that in gaining Algerian independence the FLN defeated the French army (as well as the French nation), and therefore see nothing implausible in the idea of defeating it once again.

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